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Title: Call for march to Parliament by Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions in protest against retrenchment, wage cut, wage loss and closure.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, today more than one lakh workers and employees belonging to Central trade unions, CITU, AITUC, employees federations and associations came to Delhi. They have demanded that the Government of India should take concrete measures against retrenchment, lay off of job cards and reducing the working hours.

More than 30 lakh workers so far have lost their jobs during the last few months. Massive job losses are taking place at a time when unemployment in the country is very high. Those who are still in jobs are facing wage cuts, reduced working days and other forms of attacks. The impact of this development on the working class and on their living conditions is very grave.

The most affected workers are from the construction industry, manufacturing industry, export related and export oriented industries, particularly garments, gems and jewellery, textiles, etc. Sir, you have seen the plight of diamond workers of Gujarat. About 71 workers so far have committed suicide and many of the workers have offered themselves for medical research in medical laboratories in the State of Gujarat.[\[r30\]](#)

Sir, the Government of India has announced bail out packages. The Government is allowing concession in taxes. The Government has reduced interest rate. But there is no pre-condition. Whenever the Government is announcing bail out packages or reducing interest rate or reducing taxes, there is no precondition for the employers, the industrialists who are getting the benefit, who are being bailed out and who are being offered concession after concession. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a debate. You have raised your point.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, about rupees one lakh crore have been spent for the bail out and for allowing concession, but there is no precondition that the employer should not resort to retrenchment. International Labour Organisation has stated that the way this retrenchment is taking place, this figure of persons getting unemployed will reach one crore. By March 2009, one crore workers of our country will lose their jobs. Such is the serious situation in our country. Now, there is a need to take concrete measures.

Sir, the former Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, had stated that our economy would remain insulated from the global economic meltdown, but this has not happened. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have to raise the issue. You have made your point.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the situation is very grave. Workers are on the streets today. Unless certain measures are taken and unless these employers are told not to resort to retrenchment, lay-off or lock out, the condition of workers is not going to improve. When they are bailing out the employers, workers should also be given security of their jobs in such a situation.

Sir, I demand that the Government of India should take concrete steps to overcome, to address this situation. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suravaram Sudhar Reddy, Shri Hannan Mollah, Shri Rupchand Pal and Shri C.K. Chandrapan are associating on this matter.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (JADAVPUR): Sir, I also associate. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please send your names.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Sir, I have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Those Members who have given notices, I have already mentioned their names. Please sit down. I have already given more than ten minutes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Susmita Bauri, Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar, Shri Subrata Bose, Prof. Basudeb Barman, Shri P. Mohan, Shri Sunil Khan and Shri Santasri Chatterjee are also allowed to associate on this matter.

...(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री किशन सिंह सांगवान - अनुपस्थित।

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